

**Minutes of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee  
14 June 2022**

**Present:**

Councillor M.M. Attewell (Chairman)  
Councillor H. Harvey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

C.L. Barratt	N.J. Gething	J. Vinson
C. Bateson	O. Rybinski	S.J Whitmore
S.A. Dunn	D. Saliagopoulos	

**Substitutions:** Councillors J.T.F. Doran

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Button

**In Attendance:** Councillors M. Beecher

**28/22 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**29/22 Written Answers to Questions Raised at Previous Meeting**

The Committee **resolved** to note the written responses to questions raised at the previous meeting of this Committee.

**30/22 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**31/22 Questions from members of the Public**

There were none.

**32/22 Ward Issues**

There were none.

**33/22 Allocation Policy Review**

**Councillor Harvey joined the meeting at 19:17**

**Councillor Saliagopoulos joined the meeting via Teams at 19:19**

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Lead, Housing that sought approval of the revised Allocation Policy.

The Committee were advised that a public consultation had taken place on the revised policy and that the Registered Providers, with portfolios in Spelthorne and Knowle Green Estates were also to be consulted with.

Proposed by Councillor N Gething

Seconded by Councillor H Harvey

The Committee **resolved** to approve the revised Allocation Policy

**34/22 Discretionary £150 Council Energy Rebate Scheme**

The Committee considered a report from the Housing Benefit Manager that was presented by the Deputy Chief Executive, Terry Collier that sought agreement from the Committee as to the best way to distribute the £309,000 funding Spelthorne had received from Central Government to fund discretionary payments.

The Committee were asked to consider the 6 options outlined in the report and agree which one/s provided the best way of distributing the £309,000. The Deputy Chief Executive stated that a scheme would need to be agreed and procedures put in place to distribute the money as quickly as possible to assist those residents struggling financially.

After consideration of all the options the Committee **resolved** to approve options 1 & 5 as outlined in the report but agreed that the £45 top up in option 5 be increased to £50.

**35/22 Household Support Fund Phase Two**

The Committee considered a report from the Deputy Chief Executive, Terry Collier that sought approval of the recommendations outlined in the report.

The Committee were advised that the funding received under Phase 1 had all been allocated and that in line with the Government's steer emphasis was placed on supporting households with children, with at least 50% of the funding going to these households.

Under Phase 2 Spelthorne Borough Council had received funding totalling £265,313. £182,866 of this funding will be going to pensioner households with the remainder (£82,447) being distributed to support working age households. All Surrey Authorities had agreed that they would all aim to pay £100 per household with pensioners.

The Committee **resolved** to approve the four recommendations outlined in the report.

### **36/22 Emergency Assistance Centre Plan**

The Committee were advised that this report had been removed from the agenda and would not be discussed at this meeting.

### **37/22 Disabled Facilities Grant Policy**

The Committee considered a report that sought a recommendation from the Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee to approve the Disabled Facility Grant and Better Care Funding Policy for disabled residents.

The Committee were advised that under the existing Disabled Facility Grant the Council means test all applications with the exception of those submitted for meeting the needs of disabled children and those where the applicant is in receipt of qualifying benefits. The revised Disabled Facility Grant will, in line with other neighbouring authorities, remove the requirement to means test applicants if they are applying for funding to instal stairlifts and level access showers

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee that the Disabled Facility Grant and Better Funding Policy for disabled residents be approved. This was subject to paragraphs 1.9 and 1.10 being removed from the report as this issue was to be brought back to the committee at a later date.

### **38/22 Forward Plan**

The Committee **resolved** to note the Forward Plan for the business of the committee and were asked to advise the Chair or Vice-Chair if they wanted any item added to the plan to be discussed at future meetings.

### **39/22 Exclusion of Public & Press**

Proposed by Councillor N Gething  
Seconded by Councillor C Barratt

The Committee **resolved** to move the exclusion of the public and press in order to discuss the next item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Paragraph 3 or Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **40/22 Leisure Centre Operator Contract Specification**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval of Option 2 as outlined in the report in respect of the proposed concessions price categories.

#### **41/22 Urgent business**

The Committee were advised that a member of the Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee was invited to sit on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Working Group to represent the Committee.

Councillor Gething put his name forward and this was seconded by Councillor Barratt.

Councillor Dunn put her name forward and this was seconded by Councillor Vinson.

A vote was taken resulting in 5 votes for each candidate. The Chair used her casting vote and the Committee **resolved** to elect Councillor Gething to represent the Committee on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Working Group.